

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /010 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:DLMACK:CFE

APPROVED BY NEA/AFN:MWWILEY

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R 252248Z PEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

UNCLAS STATE 042732

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, BGEN

SUBJECT: TWINNED CITIES, GAFSA AND INDIO, CALIFORNIA

REF: TUNIS 1098

1. DEPTOFF SPOKE WITH BOTH MAYOR RINDERHAGEN AND A MR. KUHNER, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AT INDIO. KUHNER HAD WORKED CLOSELY WITH PARKINSONS IN DEVELOPING THEIR ITINERARY. KUHNER WELCOMED INITIATIVE OF EMBASSY IN BRINGING POSSIBLE SCHEDULE PROBLEM TO OUR ATTENTION. HE SAID THAT PARKINSONS HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT TRAVEL CHANGES MIGHT BE NECESSARY AND WOULD DEPEND ON EMBASSY GUIDANCE. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD THEY HAVE LEFT TUNIS WITHOUT VISITING THE EMBASSY.

2. PARKINSONS ARE SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN TUNIS ON TUNIS AIR FLIGHT 953 FROM ROME ON MARCH 12. SINCE AIRCRAFT DOES NOT ARRIVE UNTIL AROUND NOON AND SINCE SOME TIME WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR ARRIVAL FORMALITIES, DEPTOFF SUGGESTED THAT A TRIP TO GAFSA THAT AFTERNOON APPEARED IMPRACTICAL. KUHNER READILY AGREED. KUHNER SAID THAT HE WOULD TRY TO GET WORD TO THE PARKINSONS BUT WAS NOT SURE HE COULD DO SO. IN ANY EVENT, HE SAID, THEY WOULD

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BE CONTACTING THE EMBASSY UPON ARRIVAL AND WOULD BE
PREPARED FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF A CHANGE IN PLANS.

3. SUGGEST THAT EMBASSY RESERVE HOTEL ROOM IN TUNIS FOR
MARCH 12 AND INFORM HOTEL JUGURTHA AND PRESIDENT OF
GAFSA MUNICIPALITY THAT PARKINSONS WILL ARRIVE ON
MARCH 13. DEPTOFF TOLD KUHNER THAT EMBASSY COULD NOT
PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION TO GAFSA BUT COULD HELP PARKINSONS
ARRANGE IT ON COMMERCIAL BASIS. DEPTOFF ALSO ASSURED
KUHNER THAT SOMEONE FROM EMBASSY WOULD GIVE PARKINSONS
A BRIEFING ON TUNISIA. (PARKINSONS WOULD DOUBTLESS BE
MOST APPRECIATIVE OF POSSIBLE EMBASSY HOSPITALITY.) KISSINGER

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE042732
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DLMACK:CFE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750067-0532
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750284/aaaagpgd.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 TUNIS 1098
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <23 JAN 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971007
Subject: TWINNED CITIES, GAFSA AND INDIO, CALIFORNIA
TAGS: BGEM, OTRA
To: TUNIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006